

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

- Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing contamination of a surface of a drum drier used in a paper machine comprising the step of continuously supplying a surface treatment agent from a spray nozzle at a spray rate of 0.3 to 500 mg/m² per min directly to the surface of the drum drier in rotation, facing a paper strip, while the paper strip is fed by the paper machine, wherein the surface treatment agent is prepared by emulsifying oil by the agency of a surfactant[.], and wherein the paper strip is not stained by the release agent.
- Claim 2. (Original) A method of preventing contamination of the surface of a drum drier according to Claim 1, wherein the surface treatment agent contains oil as the main component thereof.
- Claim 3. (Original) A method of preventing contamination of the surface of a drum drier according to Claim 2, wherein a surface treatment agent prepared by emulsifying oil by the agency of a surfactant is used for the surface treatment agent.
- Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A method of preventing contamination of a surface of a drum drier used in a paper machine, said method comprising the following steps 1) to 5):
- 1) supplying oil from a spray nozzle directly to the surface of the drum drier in rotation, facing a paper strip, while the paper strip is fed by the paper machine;
 - 2) [filing] filling up recesses in microscopic asperities on the surface of the drum drier with the continuing supply of an oil;

- 3) forming a thin oil film on the surface of the drum drier with the recesses of the microscopic asperities thereof already filled up by the continuing supply of the oil;
- 4) transferring the oil to the paper strip by keeping the drum drier and the paper strip pressed into contact with each other, depleting the oil film, wherein the paper strip is not stained by the oil; and
- 5) replenishing the drum drier with the oil continuously supplied upon depletion of the oil film by an amount of depletion.

Claim 5. (Previously Added) A method for preventing contamination of the surface of a drum drier as in claim 1, wherein the surface treatment agent is prepared by adding an amount of water to the oil, wherein the amount of water is 3 to 30 times as much as the oil.

Claim 6. (Previously Added) A method for preventing contamination of the surface of a drum drier as in claim 1, wherein a mixing ratio of the surfactant ranges from 5 to 70 wt% against the oil.